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**St. Louis Summer Camp Programs Infuse an Hour of Literacy A Day to Combat the Summer Slide**

**ST. LOUIS (June 5, 2023) –** Turn the Page STL with Blueprint4 are proud to present the 2023 Summer Literacy Infusion cohort of St. Louis camp programs, dedicated to combating the summer literacy slide. “Children living in poverty experience years of learning loss, “the summer slide” when children they are not engaged in educational activities during the summer months,” stated Lisa Greening, Director of Turn the Page STL, St. Louis’ chapter of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading. “We can do better.”

This summer, six area camp organizations: Better Family Life, Boys & Girls Club, Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club, Unleashing Potential, Wesley House, and the Gateway Region YMCA, will be infusing an hour of literacy a day for their campers, ages five to ten.

The focus is for campers to have fun with reading! Each day will include 15 minutes of reading aloud, 15 minutes of independent reading, 15 minutes of writing, and 15 minutes of literacy games.

Thanks to area contributors and funders BJC, Book Harvest, the Dana Brown Charitable Trust, Clark-Fox Foundation, Emerson, Incarnate Word Foundation, Nine PBS, Saigh Foundation, and Light a Single Candle Foundation, each camp counselor will receive a literacy kit, co-designed by the area camp programs, Turn the Page STL, and Blueprint4. The 70 kits each include more than a hundred high-interest, culturally representative books, literacy games, notebooks, pencils, chalk, and a binder of local literacy resources.

Resources were provided by Turn the Page STL’s Summer Learning Work Team, including BJC School Outreach and Youth Development, City of St. Louis, Clark-Fox Family Foundation, Ferguson Municipal Library, Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri, Missouri History Museum, Nine PBS, Office of St. Louis County Executive, St. Louis County Library, St. Louis Public Library, United 4 Children, University City Public Library, and the YMCA.

Camp counselors will be trained in person by Turn the Page STL and Blueprint 4, plus have access to five videos produced by Blueprint4 on best practices for reading aloud, independent reading, writing, and playing literacy games.

Hope Education will provide pre and post assessment of campers at each camp, using using the Diagnostic Decoding Survey (Really Great Reading) and Oral Ready Fluency (DIBELS).

“Our summer literacy infusion cohort is unique,” states Allie Cicotte, Senior Programs Manager, Clark-Fox Family Foundation. “We are taking traditional camp programs who aren't only academic programs and encouraging ALL camp counselors to support student literacy. By making it simple and fun to infuse with four blocks daily, we hope that summer camps maintain the fun joy of a traditional summer camp while also intentionally supporting students’ literacy growth. Providing these resource kits per counselor, we are ensuring that those implementing the daily blocks have the tools necessary to help our students thrive."

Each camp site will also receive 500 books for families to choose from and take home, plus a visit from the public library to register families for a library card.

For more information, please contact Lisa Greening, Executive Director, Turn the Page STL, St. Louis’ chapter of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, at lisa.greening@turnthepagestl.org or at 314.540.7670.

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